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By Levi Leighton, Esq.,
COLUMBIA FALLS, ME.

CENTENNIAL HISTORICAL
Sketch
OF THE
TOWN OF COLUMBIA Me.

As gathered from the Town Records, Family Records
and Traditional History from the memory of
its aged Citizens.

....FROM 1796 TO 1896....

PRESS OF
THE REPUBLICAN,
MACHIAS, ME.

Centennial Historical

Sketch

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Town of Columbia

As gathered from the Town Records, Family Records
and Traditional History from the memory of
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From 1796 to 1896.

By Levi Leighton, Esq.,
COLUMBIA FALLS, ME.

Account of the Celebration.

THE town of Columbia, at its annual meeting, March 17, 1896, voted to raise $75.00 to be used in celebrating the One Hundredth Anniversary of the town; and appointed a Centennial Committee, consisting of Jesse L. Nash, as Chairman; M. F. Ingersoll, as Secretary; George H. Leighton, V. N. Look, George C. Coffin, Augustus Dunbar, E. A. Foster and Jethro P. Hartford. This committee appointed Asaph H. Leighton as President of the day, Levi Leighton, Esq., of Columbia Falls, Historian, and Rev. E. K. Drew, of Harrington, Chaplain; also decided to hold the celebration July 4th, at the Lower Epping Corner. A program was posted and carried out as far as the weather would permit. A sunrise salute was fired by Jethro P. Hartford, a street parade at 7 a. m., base ball at 8, and dinner at 12 m.

The Harrington Brass Band was in service all day and discoursed nice music, which was highly appreciated. The literary exercises were held in the Union Church, the weather not permitting them in open air, as previously arranged. At 1:30 p. m. the

crowded house was called to order by the President, and the following exercises were carried out:

First—Music by the Band

Second—Prayer by the Chaplain.

Third—History by the Historian.

Fourth—Singing by the Choir.

Fifth—Impressive speeches by Hon. John F. Lynch and Geo. W. Drisko, Esq., editor of the Machias Union, of Machias.

Sixth—Oration by Rev. A. J. Turner, of Columbia Falls.

Last—Singing America by the audience, and giving three hearty cheers for the speakers and the old town of Columbia.

Fireworks and a dance ended the great Centennial Celebration of the old town of Columbia.

INTRODUCTORY AND PRELIMINARY REMARKS BY THE HISTORIAN.

In writing the following historical sketches of Columbia in the brief space of time alloted me I have done the best I could. My friends have responded promptly in assisting me in this almost Herculean task. The longer we drift away from the incidents of our fathers, their doings and family history, where they came from and where they settled as pioneers in the town, the less likely we are to get a true written history. Chronology in history is the hardest to remember, and the hardest to obtain. Students of history will tell you that much of the history of the world rests upon old tradition, and that most all historians are partial writers. American historians will err on the side of their own country. So the English, the French, the Greek, the Roman and the Jewish historians have not written much impartial history. The history of nations, states and towns should be carefully written, not in a hurried manner, but after most profound research and patient inquiry. One hundred and twenty years ago a nation was born and when christened its name was called the "United States of America," and in its infancy it proudly took its place among the great, the older and the most powerful nations of the earth, and took for its motto, "*E Pluribus Unum*," one of many. One of thirteen states into one nation and under one government; and soon adopted for its emblem or flag, having on its surface of red, white and blue bunting, thirteen stripes and thirteen stars. The thirteen stripes represent the thirteen original states, and the stars the number of states. As a state is admitted into this union of states another star is put on the flag, until now there should be forty-five stars. Those stars are the emblems of a higher destiny.

The ethereal blue is a fit emblem of purity and freedom. That spotless white the emblem of truth and virtue, and with fervent red the emblem of pure devotion to our country. Seventy-six years ago a state was born and soon took its place as the 23d state in our union of states. and the twenty-three stars was placed on our flag; and when christened it took for its name, the State of Maine, and soon adopted for its motto: "*Dirigo*," meaning, "I lead;" and if you know of the high position our delegation occupies in congress today you must be convinced the motto was well selected and well carried out. We are proud to be ranked as the 104th town in our noble state. But as we were in the District of Maine twenty-four years, and under the laws of Massachusetts before Maine became a state, we must give credit to that state for much of our childhood training. We are proud of such a mother whose motto should be a leader in education and patriotism. Anniversaries of many kinds are held, and we believe they are proper and profitable, and serve as mile stones in the history of nations, states, towns and individuals. In writing this history the plan I shall pursue is to first write recorded history as found on the town records and in the Adjutant General's report, and then traditional history as obtained from family records and aged citizens. In some instances we shall go behind the incorporation of the town in the traditional history of pioneer families, and some events in the first and early settlement of the town. If we err in some instances we hope to be pardoned.

RECORDED HISTORY.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts—In the year of our Lord, 1796, an act to incorporate the Plantations No. 12 and 13, west of Machias, in the County of Washington, into a town by the name of Columbia:

Be it Enacted—By the Senate and House of Representatives in general court assembled, and by the authority of the same, that the Plantations No. 12 and 13, west of Machias, in the County of Washington, bounded as follows, to wit: Beginning at the southeast corner of Plantation No. 13, on the head line of No. 6; thence running west 12 1-4 miles on said line of No. 6 and No. 5 to a corner; bounded on the easterly side by No. 11; thence running north 5 3-4 miles to a corner which terminates in a pond; thence east on the southerly bounds of Townships No. 18 and 19, 10 1-4 miles; thence south 5 miles and 209 rods on the easterly line of Township No. 22 to the first mentioned bounds, together with all of the inhabitants thereon, be and thus hereby are incorporated into a town by the name of Columbia, and said town is hereby vested with all the powers, privileges and immunities which other towns in the Commonwealth do or may enjoy;

And be it further enacted that Alexander Campbell, Esq., be and is empowered to issue his warrant, directed to some suitable person, inhabitant of said town, requiring him to warn a meeting of the said inhabitants of said town at such a time and place as shall be in such warrant for the purpose of choosing such town officers as other towns are empowered to choose in the month of March or April, annually. In the House of Representatives, Feb. 6, 1796. This bill having had three several readings, passed to be enacted.

Edward H. Robins,
Speaker of the House.

In the Senate, Feb. 8, 1796. This bill having had t several readings, passed to be enacted.

THOMAS DAWS,

President pro tem of the Senate.

Feb. 8, 1796. Approved by the Governor.

SAMUEL ADAMS.

True copy attest: JOHN AVERY, JR., *Secretary.*

Under this act the first meeting was called by Obediah Aller constable of the town of Columbia, the 18th day of April, 179 at the dwelling house of Joseph Patten. This, we believe, wa once known as the Woodward House, and later on, a little whil before it was torn down, it was called the Bee Hive. Joseph Patte at the time the town was incorporated, was town clerk, and Thoma Ruggles, William Wass and David Wass, were the selectmen. A the first regular annual meeting Benjamin Ruggles was chose moderator; Wm. Bucknam, town clerk; Elisha Coffin, Thomas Ruggles and Gowen Wilson, selectmen; Joseph Patten, treasurer. Time and space would not allow me to report all the proceeding at the annual town meetings. Extracts will be made as we pass along, which may be worth recording in this history. To prove that Columbia early disapproved of foreign immigration, I will write what the Selectmen ordered the constable to do:

WASHINGTON, ss. *To any Constable of the Town of Columbia.*

GREETING:

You are hereby, in the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, to warn and give notice to Samuel Marston, Sarah, his wife, and all the family, who have lately come into this town for the purpose of abiding therein, not having obtained a legate, the town's consent, therefore that they all depart the limits thereof

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

ithin twenty days, and of this precept with your doings thereon, ou are to make return into the office of the Town Clerk within venty days next coming, that such further proceedings may be as e law directs.

Given under our hands and seals at Columbia aforesaid this 9th day of March, A. D. 1798.

THOMAS RUGGLES,
ELISHA COFFIN, } Selectmen of Columbia.
GOWEN WILSON,

VASHINGTON, ss. Columbia, April 7, 1798.

Pursuant to the within precept, I have notified and warned he within named Samuel Marston, Sarah, his wife, and family, the limits of said town by reading the warrant to them.

NATHAN WHITNEY,
Fees, 62 cents. *Constable of Columbia.*
Attest:—JOSEPH PATTEN, *Clerk.*

At their annual town meeting in April, 1801, the town voted to raise $75 for the support of the gospel. Also that Deacon David Wass be an agent to hire or engage a person or persons to supply or preach the gospel.

At a special legal meeting of the inhabitants of the town of Columbia, the 5th day of April, A. D. 1802, for the purpose of drawing two good and lawful men to serve as Grand Jurors, was drawn from the box, Mr. Isaac Nash and Joseph Patten, Esq.

Attest: WILLIAM BUCKNAM, *Town Clerk.*

At the same meeting, Article 26, the town voted that the $5 that were raised for the support of the gospel shall be appropriated to the use of schools.

At the annual town meeting of 1803 a vote was passed to let hogs go at large, being lawfully yoked.

At a legal meeting of the inhabitants of Columbia, in the County of Washington, holden on the first Monday of September, being the 6th day of the month, 1819, to give in their votes for the approbation or disapprobation of the constitution as prepared by the convention of delegates assembled at Portland on the 2d Monday of October, last, pursuant to an act entitled, "an act relating to the separation of the District of Maine from Massachusetts proper and forming the same into a separate and independent state. The whole number of votes given in said town were sorted, counted and declaration thereof made in open meeting of said town by the selectmen who presided at said meeting, and there were twenty votes given in, of which nine were in favor of the constitution prepared by the convention as aforesaid, and eleven were opposed to said constitution.

Attest: ICHABOD BUCKNAM, *Town Clerk.*

So we see that a majority then, of the voters of the town, chose to remain under the laws and control of their mother state, rather than set up for themselves, but other older and larger towns thought different and the District of Maine became a state. From this date we take quite a leap in the town's recorded history.

In the year 1862, at the annual town meeting, Charles A. Wilson was elected town clerk to succeed his father, Truman Wilson, who had filled that office since the year 1840, twenty-two consecutive years. March 24, 1863, the last annual town meeting was held in Hamlin Hall, before the division of the town. In the

ear of 1863 an act was passed by the legislature of Maine dividng the town on the division line between Nos. 12 and 13, setting off the eastern half of No. 13, by a line stated in the act, a town of itself which was named Columbia Falls. A satisfactory line was run by Addison Dodge, Esq., of Ellsworth, and stone monuments erected by both towns. Financial committees were soon appointed by both towns to settle all financial matters. The old town of Columbia chose for their committee: Levi Leighton, Abraham Nash and W. H. Puffer. The new town of Columbia Falls chose: George Harris, George W. Ruggles and Gowen Wilson. The former committee are all alive at this date, and the latter committee are all dead; your Historian of today having been chairman of the former committee, and of course, then a resident of Columbia. In a few years all financial matters were amicably settled between the two towns without much cost or litigation; and ever since a friendly feeling has existed between the towns.

About this time both towns were called upon for soldiers to help put down the Southern Rebellion. According to the Adjutant General's report Columbia furnished for the Sixth Maine Volunteers as follows: Wm. K. Stiles, Fones G. Leighton, Frank G. Leighton, Hannibal H. Leighton, Stephen S. Leighton, George Leighton, John E. Stewart, Robert Worster, Eli Tracy and Sydney W. Tucker.

At the next call Columbia sent as Volunteers in the 15th or Heavy Artillery Regiment: Harrison G. Smith, who went out as captain and was promoted to the rank of major, Joseph W. Worster, James Buzzell, William H. Cates, George S. Tibbitts, Philander D. Low, William A. Buzzell, Albert J. Dunbar, Elisha C. Grant, Oscar Tracy, Lewis Barton, Warren L. Hall, Joshua I. Nash, Alexander Parker, William A. Sinclair, Zimri D. Tabbutt, Benjamin N.

Tucker, and Aaron L. Worster Columbia sent, to be assigne to some regiment: Charles A. Drisko, John F. Dorr and Gree Leighton.

At the next call, for nine months, men who went south in the 22d Regiment, Columbia sent: Nathaniel White, Lincoln Rhodes Isaac N. Allen, Wm. H. Allen, John Buzzell, Wm. I. Dorr, Venleson E. French, George M. D. Grant, John B. Grant, Jethro P. Hartford Alfred E. Leighton, Jotham S. Leighton, Warren G. Leighton, Wentworth A. Leighton, Henry Low, Joseph D. McKenzie, George I. McDowell, Sydney L. Preble, David F. Wass, Charles Sinclair, Rufus Tabbut, Amos H. Tucker, John Webb, Algenon A. Worster, Asa T. Worster, James Worster, Moses Worster and William G. Worster. In the thirteen sent Matthew Wood and Philander F. White went first in the navy and then enlisted in the 20th Regiment. Sent in the 11th Regiment: Columbus Nash and James McCarty.

The old pioneers of Columbia and their descendants were always loyal to their government and willingly responded to every call when help was needed in defense of their country's honor. I would that I had time to speak of the many deeds of valor these veterans of the Grand Army of the Republic performed to save their country from being rent in twain. Can time ever efface from the records or from memory such heroic deeds, hardly found in Roman or Grecian story?

We must here leave the recorded history as found in the town records and Adjutant General's report and take up traditional history of the pioneer families, or first settlers of the town, where they came from, when they settled, what they did and who their children were. This has been gathered from family records and verbally from the oldest residents in town. Of course so hastily gotten up there may be some errors in it.

The first settlers, as tradition says, in Columbia, were two brothers, William and Noah Mitchell, who came from Falmouth, Me., about 1750. It is said that in entering the mouth of Pleasant river they saw large areas of marsh land which they thought would afford them great privilege for cutting hay for stock, which privilege they soon utilized in cutting and feeding it to cattle brought there. They at first constructed rude log houses to live in and hovels for their cattle. It is further said that William built the first frame house in town. Exactly where located it is not known, but there are old cellars on Bryant's Hill, and on Coffin's Point. Capt. Joseph Wilson, who died Dec. 22, 1796, aged 72 years, was one of the first settlers in Columbia. Capt. John Bucknam came from North Yarmouth, an early settler, and soon commenced to build mills, and commenced the lumbering business in 1773. He married Mary, daughter of Joseph Wilson, who came from Kittery with his family and went into the lumber business with others. Joseph Patten, a blacksmith from Wells, Me., settled here about 1792. James Bailey also came from Wells and settled here in 1802. He set up the first coloring and cloth dressing machine, which often went by the name of the "Fulling Mill." Cloth for your historian's freedom suit was fulled, colored and dressed in this mill. After the decease of James Bailey, Jotham Lippincott, Esq., in 1822, married his widow, and in company with Henry Bailey, son of James Bailey, continued the business; and at the decease of Lippincott and Bailey, A. A. Lippincott, son of Jotham Lippincott, continued the business as long as it would pay.

The first resident minister was Elder Joshua Young, a Baptist, who settled here about 1798, and returned to Massachusetts in 1800. Doctor Caleb Haskell, from Massachusetts, was the first regular physician to settle here in 1799. He also returned to Massachusetts in 1812. He put up the first wool carding machine

in Columbia. Wool carding was carried on afterwards a long time by Samuel Bucknam, succeeded by his son Charles C., who at this date runs the machine. Sheep husbandry is about played out, and but a small quantity of wool is brought to the mill. Jonathan Western, Esq., was the first lawyer to settle in Columbia, in 1802. As this was then a new and sparsely settled country it was a hard place for a professional man to get a living in, and they did not stay long.

THE CARLTON FAMILY.

John Carlton was born in Methuen, Mass., in 1772; married there and had one child by the name of Samuel; lost his wife there and then came to Maine to do blacksmith work for Joseph Patten and others, who were building vessels here at that time. He soon married here a woman by the name of Amie and had the following named children: Esther, Pamelia, Daniel, David, Isaac and Nancy Carlton. He died in Columbia in 1814. At this date Daniel is alive at the age of 88 years.

THE LOW FAMILY.

Jonathan Low moved from the town of Sanford, Me., into Columbia, when Daniel Low, his son, was four years old. He first settled on the Enoch Low place, where George Norton now lives. Afterwards he sold that place to his son Enoch, and moved on to the place now occupied by A. J. Merritt. A. J. Merritt at the death of his mother, Mrs. John Merritt, went to live with Deacon Daniel Low, when he was four years old. Jonathan Low was a revolutionary soldier. Daniel, his son, was a long time deacon of the Baptist church in Columbia.

THE JOHN McCASLIN FAMILY.

John McCaslin was a revolutionary soldier and when the war was over he came into Columbia and married Susie Knowles. He took up the place where Asaph Leighton now lives, as government land; paid only $5, which was for making out the title. He had nine children: Reuben, Andrew, Alexander, John, David, Shepard, Hannah, Mary and Sally.

THE ISAAC LEIGHTON FAMILY.

About 1760 two brothers, Thomas and Samuel Leighton, came from Falmouth, Me., to the Narraguagus river. Samuel, as near as we can learn, settled on the lot now in the possession of Richard P. Willey. His sons were: Theodore, Isaac, Parrot and Phineas. Isaac was born Feb. 25, 1763. . He married Mary Worster in 1813, a sister to Deacon Moses Worster. He built a small house down south of the Epping road, leading over the Epping plains. After he got a farm cleared he built a house and barn up on the said road. It was near the house which Hollis J. Leighton now occupies. He had nine children: Moses, Samuel, Daniel, Levi, Harrison S., Aaron, Lovicy, Sally and Anna. The only one living at this date is Harrison T., who will be 95 years old the 25th of next November. He lives in a house a few rods from where he was born. He retains his faculties and bodily health to a remarkable degree.

THE ARCHER FAMILY.

John Archer was born in England, March 26, 1752. He was a soldier in the revolutionary war and came into Columbia in 1789. He was a brick mason by trade and raised a family of twenty-three

children. Next to the last was the well known David Cob' Archer. Some of these children died young, and only nine o. them were born in Columbia.

THE INGERSOLL FAMILY.

William Ingersoll, the first Ingersoll settler, known as Governor Ingersoll, came to Columbia in 1779 from Yarmouth, Me. He married Elizabeth Knowles; built a house in Epping, then so called, but in the town of Columbia, a little southeast of the corner on what has been known as the Ingersoll farm. The old cellar can now be found near the line between the land of W. H. Worster and that of L. P. Ingersoll. He, with others, built a mill which was burned, and the place where it was located is now known as the "Burnt Mill Rips." Their children were William, Nathaniel, Samuel, James, Thomas, Sarah, Eliza and Susan. Thomas went to Pennsylvania and settled there. William married Susan Wass and built the house at the corner, now owned by W. H. Worster. They had fifteen children: Abigail, Eli, Elvina, Green, Root, Luther, Temperance, Irene, Mary, Mellen, Hezekiah, Margaret, Rebecca, Fannie and Abi. Nathaniel married (1) Prudence Stewart. Children: Luther, Daniel, Nathaniel, Ulmer, Julia, Dency, Sally and Ruth. (2) Married Susanna Sawyer. No children. Samuel married Elizabeth Look. Children: Phebe, William, Cynthia, Eliza, Nathaniel, David and Susan. James married Margaret Wass. Children: Rebecca, Levi, Emma, Heman, Maria and Christiana. Sarah married Robert Allen. Children: Amos, Henry, Sophia, John Truxton, Francis, Joseph and Jones. Mary married Solomon Root, and moved to Pennsylvania, where her brother went. Eliza married Isaac Littlefield. Children:

saac C. and Caroline. Susan married one Hines; one child. They settled in Brewer, Me.

[I have a more detailed account of this large family on account of its prominence in settling this part of the town; and I was assisted more by the family.]

Governor Ingersoll died in 1807, and as no stone was placed his grave his last resting place cannot be found, but we presume hat he was buried a few rods west of the Union Church.

DR. ALPHEUS CHANDLER'S FAMILY.

Dr. Alpheus S. Chandler was born in Elliot, Me., 1796; edcated in Phillips' Exeter Academy and graduated from the Harvard Medical school. He married Christiana Milliken of Belfast, Me., and commenced the practice of medicine in Columbia in 1820; had three children: Dr. Charles P., Emeline A. and Samuel H. He was an able physician and had a wide and lucrative practice, extending from East Machias to Steuben. He would often face the toughest weather to attend the poorest family in own. He died July 11, 1871.

JOSEPH CRANDON'S FAMILY.

Joseph Crandon was born in New Bedford, Mass., in 1802, and after enjoying a whaling voyage, learned the tanner's trade. As a journeyman tanner he drifted down into Columbia, Me., and hired with Daniel Townsley to work in his tan yard. He was a steady, industrious young man and soon captured for his first wife Ruth, a daughter of Thomas Ruggles. He soon bought out Mr.

Townsley. He built the house and lived in it until he died, now reconstructed into a hotel, called the Crandon House. He also built the store which is now occupied by Levi Leighton & Son. He also built several vessels which will be mentioned under the head of vessels. Children by his first wife: George R., John H., Sophia and Augustus. He married for his second wife Mrs. Alic B. Small. Children: Alice, Joseph and Ruth. He was a practical business man. He died in 1883.

GIDEON ALLEN'S FAMILY.

Gideon Allen married Miss Susan Rideout. Where they cam from has not been ascertained. In the history of the Allen family which follows, his name is not found, but nevertheless, they were true pioneers of Columbia. They went back into the wilderness some three miles, away from roads and schools, and made a clearing and erected rude dwellings to live in. Here, where the farm on which W. H. Ingersoll now lives, he raised the following named children: Obediah, Abraham, Isaac, Nickolas, Jacob, Dolly, Polly, Prudence, Ruth and Hannah. Obediah married Polly Mansfield. Abraham married Polly Worster. Issac married Judith Nash. Nickolas married Polly Dorr. Jacob married Fannie Tinney. Dolly married Thomas Sinclair. Polly married (1) Brown then McKenzie. Prudence married Moses Leighton. Hannah married Peter Magee. Ruth married Christopher Chandler.

THE ALLEN FAMILY.

The Allen family, of Maine, sprang from a Charles Allen, who came over from England in 1635. Obediah Allen, with brothers Robert and Samuel, settled in Machias, Me., over one hundred years ago. Obediah moved to Robbinston, Me., about 1795,

where he settled and brought up a large family. He died there in 1863, at the age of 99 years. Robert and Samuel settled in Columbia, Me., where some of their descendants now live. They all had large families. Rev. William Allen was one of the early Baptist ministers of Maine. He was associated with Rev. Isaac Case, Daniel Merrill and others. Gen. Ethan Allen, of Vermont, was a connection of the family, belonging to the Connecticut branch. Capt. Obediah Allen was an old settler in Robbinston in 1798; he married Ruth Andrews, of Machias, daughter of Ephriam Andrews, who came from Scarboro in 1765.

MOSES WORSTER FAMILY.

Moses Worster came from Old York on or before 1775. He married Susanna Knowles, of Addison, in 1802. He settled in that part of Columbia known as Saco. Children: Amos, Leonard, Moses, Molly, Judy, Hannah and Deborah. He was a long time deacon of the Baptist church.

THE TABBUTT FAMILY.

Joseph Tabbutt came from England when a young man. He married Betsy Drisko; tarried a short time down to Moose Neck and then came up and settled on the Ames place, on the south side of the Epping road, southwest from the place where George M. Coffin now lives. He afterwards sold this place and took up a new place on the southern border of Township No. 19, in middle division, where A. W. Tabbutt now lives. Children: Susan, Thomas, John, Moses, Olive, William and Rufus. All the boys settled near by in adjoining lots; hence the name "Tibbettstown" was applied to the northern part of the town. They all had large families except Rufus.

THE PUFFER FAMILY.

John Puffer was born in Canton, Mass., Nov. 29, 1793, and died in Columbia, Dec. 28, 1877. He married Catharine R. Stanwood, who was born in Gloucester, Mass., May 6, 1797. He enlisted in the navy in the war of 1812 and was taken prisoner soon after and lodged in Dartmore prison, where he remained two years and five months. He came into Columbia about the year 1825, and bought the betterments of the place at Little River, so called, of Moses Leighton, where his son John and daughters Taphenus and Arabella now live. Three of his children were born in Boston, one in Frankfort, Me., and the rest in Columbia. Children: Jerusha A., Catharine R., Mary A., John, Alice H., Redman, Elijah R., Taphenus N., Winthrop J., William H. and Arabella Puffer. He was active in town affairs and took an interest in building up society.

THE TUCKER FAMILY.

Among the early colonists were two young Englishmen, Josiah and Samuel Tucker. Samuel settled in Columbia, in the neighborhood of Saco and raised up a large family. Mark, Thomas, Justice Deborah and Sally, were a part of his family. Justice Tucker married Sally Leighton.

THE DORR FAMILY.

Jonathan Dorr came from Wales, England, and first settled in Steuben, Me., where he married Eunice Downes. He then came into Columbia in 1788. He had four children: Bedford, who married Ruth Whitten: Polly married Nicholas Allen, Jane

married Richard Barefield, and Jonathan married Judith N. Worster. Jonathan raised up a large family and died July 22, 1883, aged 92 years, 3 months and 4 days.

THE COFFIN FAMILY.

A full history of the Coffin family as furnished by Dr. Charles J. Milliken, of Cherryfield, Me.:

Sir Richard Coffin came from Normandy with William, the Norman, and fought at the battle of Hastings, Oct. 14, 1066. He received for his reward the manor of Alwington, county of Devon, a fair reach of fields, woodlands and sea coast, looking out upon the Bristol Channel. Upon receiving the estate he made solemn oath of loyalty to his sovereign. From that hour to the present century the estate thus acquired descended from father to son, the eldest born of successive generations, bearing the name of the knight who rendered his sovereign signal service in that battle which in its effects must ever be regarded as one of the turning points in history. A direct descendant of Sir Richard was (1st) Peter Coffin, who married Joan Thimber. They had children: Tristram, John, Eunice and Mary. Peter Coffin died in 1628. (2d) Tristram, son of Peter Coffin and Joan Thimber was born in 1605, probably at the parish of Brixton, two or three hours' walk from Plymouth, as he was living there when 15 years old. He was 23 years old on that day in 1628, when the ship Abigail with John Endicot and his fellow colonists sailed from Dorchester for the New World. Tristram married Dionis Stevens. Children: Peter, Tristram, Elizabeth and James. These were born in England. In 1642 Tristram and his family, consisting of his wife, mother, two sisters and five children came to America and settled at Salisbury on the

Merrimac river, where Mary, John and Stephen were born. We hear of him at Haverhill, Mass., the same year, witnessing the deed given by Passaconaway to the settlers of that town. In 1644 he is keeping a tavern and ferry at the crossing between Salisbury and Newbury. For 18 years they lived at Salisbury. But year after year the surroundings of these hardy, quiet, loving pioneers had been growing more and more unsatisfactory to them until finally the unpleasant annoyance was succeeded by a feeling of insecurity which soon deepened into one of depression and almost alarm, and they looked about them anxiously for relief. From the unrighteous judgments and persecutions of fanatical judges, magistrates and ministers of the Holy gospel, from exorbitant fines, imposed as penalties for deeds of kindness done their fellow men; from whipping post, the prison, the stocks, the stake and the gallows, which in that black, unnatural night of bigotry and superstition, made life upon the coast of Massachusetts a veritable hell upon earth. From these, it was, they fled in indignation, in dismay and well nigh despair. In Nantucket our patriarch lived for more than twenty years a prominent citizen, taking an active part in all matters connected with the welfare of the common domain. In 1675 we find him with other representatives from Nantucket and Martha's Vineyard, before Gov. Andros in New York, in a contested matter, relating to the courts of these two islands. His autograph letters written to Gov. Andros about this time, which may be seen at the office of the Secretary of State at Albany, are neatly penned and well composed, indicating his possession of a better education than was common at that time. (3d) John Coffin, born of Tristram and Dionis married Deborah Austin. They had eleven children. (5) Richard Coffin, born Oct. 20, 1729, son of Tristram and Mary Bowker, married Mary Cook (date not known, but about 1750.) Richard and his family came from Vineyard and took up a lot on the west side of the Branch and the same that in after years was

occupied by Deacon David Coffin, his grandson. The children of Richard Coffin and Mary Cook were: Mary, Matthew, Richard, Elisha, Abigail, Susanna, John, Jane and Temple. Deacon Elisha, of Richard, married Ruth Cates and settled on a lot in Columbia, (Epping,) the same now occupied by Joseph W. Coffin. Their children were: Ambrose, married Sarah Sawyer; Campbell died Apr. 6, 1807, aged 9 years; Leonice married Levi Leighton, son of Isaac Leighton, and Hannah married John Wilson, son of Joseph Wilson, Jr. Deacon Elisha died Jan. 22, 1830, aged about 72 years. Matthew Coffin, of Richard and Mary, was born at Edgartown, Martha's Vineyard, about 1756, and came with his family to Addison about 1768. He married Jane Wass, of Wilmot, (1st) and settled on a lot next west of the Deacon David Wass lot. Their children were (1st) Matthew married Lydia Whitten. Richard married Hannah Whitten, (3d) Elisha married Rebecca Drisko. (4th) David married Hannah Nash, of Abraham. (3d) Benjamin C. married Lucy Wass, of William. (6th) Susan married Joseph Wass, of Wilmot (2d). (7th) Abigail married (1st) Tucker, (2d) James Crowley, (3d) Leighton. (8) Polly married Joel Hall. (9) Sarah married Simeon Hall. (10) Betsy married Samuel Small. (11) Permelia married Adolphus Corthell and (12) Miriam married William Wass, of William (1st). Matthew Coffin died Jan. 17, 1830, aged 74 years; his wife, Jane Wass, died Dec. 28, 1853, aged 92 years, 4 months and 10 days. It is said that all the Coffins in the United States are descendants of Tristram, who came over in 1642.

SMITH FAMILY.

Eben Smith came from Middleboro, Mass., to Steuben, when he was 10 years old. From thence he went on a whaling voyage, which lasted about two years. He built the first tide mill in Jones-

boro, when he married Deborah Farnsworth and came into Columbia in 1827 to enter into the lumber business in the neighborhood of Saco. He had nine children: Sylvina, Diadem, Priscilla, Russell, William, Harrison G., Richard (who died young), Eri H. and Harriet. Harrison G. served in the war of the rebellion and was promoted from captain to major for meritorious service. He married Mary A. Puffer, daughter of John Puffer.

CAPT. THOMAS RUGGLES' FAMILY.

Capt. Thomas Ruggles came from Rochester, Mass., in 1770. He soon became a prominent business man. He was postmaster a number of years, and extensively engaged in the mercantile and farming business. He was married to Ruth Clapp, of Dorchester, Mass., in 1796. He was then 26 years old. Children: William, Charles, Frederick, George W., Benjamin F., Ruth, Betsey, Lucy and Sophia. He was a military man and served as an officer in the militia of the state. In 1820 he was commissioned a Justice of the Court of Sessions. He once owned or controlled the Township of land now the town of Centreville. He built the "old Ruggles House," so widely known for its unique and expensive finish. The western room or parlor is finished with hand-carved work, said to have cost $1000. We hope that this ancient structure will be allowed to remain as a relict of former times. Of late it has attracted the attention of many visitors. Lizzie Ruggles, the daughter of Frederick and Caroline Ruggles, the only one by this name in town, now occupies it. She is unmarried and the only one of the family living.

THE NASH FAMILY.

Joseph Nash, as far as we can find any record, came from Falmouth or Scarboro, about 1770. He was the first Nash to

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settle on Pleasant river. He built a log house on the north or east side of the present road, leading from Addison Point to the Branch and "took up" a squat on quite a large tract of marsh and wood land which he retained and passed into possession of his sons, grandsons and great grandsons, who yet own a part of it. Joseph's sons were: Isaiah, Abraham, Joseph, Jr., Ebenezer and others, with daughters. The number of children is not known. Isaiah was born in Yarmouth, May 10, 1763. Judith Downs was born in Hebron, Me., Sept. 11, 1763, married in Yarmouth and removed within a year after marriage to Columbia and settled on what was known as a part of the Shaw-Nash or Ebenezer Nash farm, where Abraham Nash and Edgar White now live. Isaiah and Judith's children were: Isaac, born Sept. 10, 1783, died young; Joseph, born Apr. 5, 1784, died at Calais; Elizabeth, born June 13, 1786; Jacob, Mar. 28, 1788; Jennie, Mar. 25, 1790; Polly, Nov. 11, 1791; Amaziah, Jan. 23, 1794, died in Iowa; Joshua, May 2, 1795, died in Columbia; Isaac, born May 7, 1797, died in Harrington; Judith, born Dec. 27, 1798; Susan, Aug. 17, 1800. Susan married Jesse L. Nash, son of Abraham Nash; Susan died in 1839; Jesse L. died Jan. 1888. He was the father of Mrs. I. Woodbury White, Mrs. Esther C. Drisko, and Elizabeth Whitney, deceased. Susan married B. F. Spinger; VanBuren married Abbie Dorman, of Harrington and now resides in Holliston, Cal., and Jesse L. Nash, Jr., who lives on the homestead at the Branch, married Eliza, daughter of Ransom Nash.

THE MILLIKEN FAMILY.

James A. Milliken came into Columbia about 1840 as a school master, and soon married Lucretia B. Coffin, only daughter of Col. B. C. Coffin, of Columbia. About this time he commenced to preach the Universalist doctrine, which was not very popular at

that time. He built a house in 1846 on the south side of the main Epping road, leading by the Union church, which was burned a few years ago. After a few years of preaching in Columbia, Indian River, Machias and East Machias, he commenced to study law in the office of George F. Talbot in Machias, and soon opened a law office in Cherryfield. He was for many years Judge of Probate, and was holding that office when he was stricken down with a paralytic shock. He wrote and published a pamphlet, entitled: "Narraguagus Valley Notes," which is of much value as a book of reference. He had one son, Dr. Charles J. Milliken, born in Columbia; graduated from a medical school, and is now having a lucrative practice in Cherryfield.

The Bucknams and Willsons figured largely in the early settlement of Columbia. First securing the mill privilege and about all the land adjacent thereto; they then built mills and dwelling houses, and took an active part in building up the town.

THE BUCKNAM FAMILY.

Samuel Bucknam probably removed to Falmouth in the Province of Maine, about 1720. John Bucknam was married to Mary Wilson in Columbia Jan. 27, 1773. Children: Wiiiiam, Anna, John, Jeremiah, Ichabod, Mary, Samuel, Robert P. and Nathan.

THE WILSON FAMILY.

Joseph Wilson was born in Kittery, July 5, 1725. He married Mary Swett, of Falmouth. Came to Pleasant river or Columbia about May 25, 1762. Children: Mary, Joseph, Ichabod, Gowen, Nathaniel, Anna S. and Phebe. He built and occupied the Dr. Chandler house. A genealogical history of these families can be found in, "Narraguagus Valley Notes," by J. A. Milliken, Esq., written in 1887. We have no reliable data as to exactly where or when they first built their houses and mills.

Record of the Vessels

BUILT IN COLUMBIA.

The first vessel built in Columbia was named after the town. She was a topsail schooner of 98 tons. Joseph Patten, Gowen Wilson and Mrs. Mary Bucknam were the builders. Capt. William Wass was master. The next was the Hiram of 130 tons, built in the same yard by Mrs. Bucknam, Wilmot Wass and William Bucknam. These vessels were built in the yard afterwards occupied by Isaac Carlton. About this time Joseph Patten and Joseph Fenno built a ship yard near what is now known as Whitney's Landing, where they built several vessels, including two large ships. They were driven out of the business by the embargo act in 1806. From this time until 1830, but little was done in shipbuilding. About this time Jotham Lippincott built a small schooner, called the Valant. He afterwards built the schooner Signet. He and others afterwards built the sloop Henry. About this time Joseph Crandon began building vessels, his first being the brig Radius, followed by the Sultana, Tangient, Alice Bently and E. H. Conant. He built vessels of larger tonnage; among them were: Bark Joseph Crandon and the brig A. Richards, which was destroyed by the Confederate cruiser Alabama. Mr. Crandon closed his shipbuilding at Jonesboro, where he built the schooners Kioka and Sarah P. In the year 1847 James Bailey built the schooner Wreath. During the year 1855 Arthur Bucknam built the schooner Sylvia of 82 tons. In the year following he built the Crystal Palace of 130 tons. William Bucknam and others built a schooner called the Fannie and May. Isaac Carlton in 1851 built the schooner E. Wright, and afterwards the Mary E. Gage and the I. Carlton. He also

built the brig Callao, and others. His tonnage of vessels built sums up 2900 tons. In 1871 John H. Crandon commenced building in his father's yard. He built the Sarah and Emma, Atalage, John Swan, Marena, Lenora and J. C. Crandon; and barks H. L. Gregg, Justin H. Ingersoll, Charles Deering, J. B. Rabel and John Swan; also the schooners Yreka, Josie, Eagle, Rock, Jennie Hall and Lucy Belle.

VESSELS BUILT AT THE BRANCH.

Florence, B. F. Nash, Pedro, Mary and Gertrude, were built in the Ransom Nash shipyard; A. H. Wass and Minnie Miller in the J. L. Nash yard, and the Samuel Train and Wave in the Samuel Drisko shipyard. J. Lowell Nash, son of D. M. Nash, and Geo. B. Drisko, son of Samuel Drisko, were master builders of some of them.

Citizens of Columbia

WHO HAVE GONE OUT FROM US TO SEEK THEIR FORTUNES IN OTHER LANDS.

In 1849 we sent around Cape Horn, in the Oriental from East Machias, the Agate from Machias and the Belgrade from Cherryfield, some of our best young men. Philander Leighton, Elisha Nash, Stillman Magee, Benjamin Tabbutt, Hiram Tabbutt and David Coffin. The only survivors are Philander Leighton, now in Montana, and Stillman Magee, now in California.

We have sent out for professional men:

Doctors—Willard E. Pineo, Charles P. Chandler, C. J. Milliken, A. C. Lippincott and Augustus C. Hamlin.

Ministers—Theodore F. White (Baptist), Milton F. Bridgham (Methodist) and Raymond C. Drisko (Congregational).

As lawyers we have sent out—Fred C. Nash, Howard Nash, Charles A. Bailey and Charles A. Bucknam.

The nearest we came to sending out an editor was the better half of George W. Drisko, editor of the Machias Union, Mrs. Esther Drisko, who was the daughter of Jesse L. Nash.

The nearest we came in sending out a vice-president—Hannibal Hamlin studied law a short time with his brother, Elijah L., in Columbia.

As an agricultural, lumbering and shipbuilding town we have sent abroad many skilled laborers, honest sons of toil. They can be found in the New England states and the Far West.

Thus ends our first Centennial history, and the next has begun. We can hardly realize the important position we now occupy; standing as it were with one foot on the retiring edge of the last century and the other on the verge of the new. We know some of the past, but what will be the new? It will be what we make it—noble or ignoble, happy or unhappy. Remember this and start right.

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